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THE RING OF THE TRUE METAL.

Every loyal Kentuckian will be delighted with the notable speech of the Hon. Joseph Holt, which we publish to-day. He does not believe in handling rebels with white kid gloves, nor in washing their carcasses with rose water.

A CORRECTION AND MORE TOO.

The Journal has caught us in an erroneous quotation from its editorial columns. We stand corrected. We had said:

It is not long since the editor [of the Journal] made the not over-gentle remark that the man who demanded the execution of violated law upon the rebel leaders "must have a heart set on fire of hell."

We quoted from memory as the particular number of the Journal containing the paragraph we designed to quote was at the time mislaid. The Journal takes the matter up and makes the preposterously funny mistake of supposing that we referred to the letter written by the editor to H. M. Bruce of the rebel Congress all about that "brave but erring boy," which letter fell into the hands of a national officer, and got thence into print, calling out a card from Mr. Prentiss, in which he says that any one who could condemn the letter abroad, "must have a heart set on fire of hell." The editor of the Journal is barking up very much the wrong tree. That letter and that card and all the attendant circumstances were not in our thoughts at the time we wrote the above paragraph.

Really, whilst we are not secure from making mistakes, nor above a frank acknowledgment of them when we do make them, we believe we are altogether incapable mentally and morally of so egregious and ridiculous a perversion of another's language as to derive from the "card" referred to, the sentiment we have attributed to the editor of the Journal. The editor is right in saying that we didn't condemn his letter to Mr. Bruce. Neither did we condemn his card respecting it, beyond the expression of some regret that he should have felt moved to use such a document his favorite rhetorical weapon.

The truth is that it is the frequent recurrence of the objectionable phrase, and of phrases nearly identical in meaning, that has led us into our blundering quotation. The Journal says, "we made no such remark as he says we did. We made no remark about it, in even the hundredth degree." Now let us see precisely what he did say. "Who that is not a devil doubly damned will at a time like this talk of the hanging of the rebel leaders?" &c. &c. This expression occurs in a leader in the Journal of March 31st, 1865. We also, desire to put a question here, which the reader may regard as belonging to the "rule of three," or as being a conundrum, according to his choice:

It requires a "devil doubly damned" to talk about the hanging of rebel leaders, what sort of a devil, he who could express the vehement wish that the assassin of President Lincoln had twenty million necks for the hanging? Or what is the meaning of the "devil doubly damned" times? It is hardly necessary to suggest, in passing, that there is something remotely akin, bearing just a far-off, dim resemblance to the genuine quotation above, in the erroneous one which we cheerfully apologize for. There is, however, a difference. It is the difference between a very wicked man, still in a state of probation, and an infinitely wicked devil, beyond the reach of hope or grace! The fact is, we had accidently "drawn it mild." The genuine quotation is many degrees more ferocious and absurd than the bogus.

And now in all earnestness we again desire to know what sense, justice, or philanthropy is there in casting in the most unmeasured terms J. Wilkes Booth, and in the same breath denouncing with bitterness any one who suggests that Jefferson Davis ought to be treated if caught, as a felon who has incurred the severest penalties which a Christian nation can inflict? It seems to us that the views of our neighbor on this whole subject are of that crude, unstable, inharmonious character which betrays an altogether impulsive origin. The ring-leaders of this foul conspiracy against the nation, treated him when on a sorrowful errand to their capital with considerate hospitality.

It is certainly no dishonor to him that he feels grateful for it. And we think none the less of those leaders that they thus exhibited some remaining streaks of good will. Let it pass for all it is worth; go just as far as it will in mitigating enmity to them. But many and many a celebrated robber in history has exhibited in a similar manner the fragments of broken and repented virtue clinging to his demoniacal character. Booth himself is probably an example. Had he been in place of the men who tendered courtesies to the editor of the Journal, he might have won from him the same pushing and grateful sympathy.

His crime was more violent, and required more desperate valor than any deed performed by Jeff. Davis during the war; but we do stoutly maintain that the spirit of it is no whit worse, its malice no deeper, than that which has been the steady-flaming animus of Jeff. Davis throughout the struggle. We have no vindictive or blood-thirsty feeling towards any of these wretched criminals. We would spare and forgive, and embrace with all charity, just so many of them as would be consonant with public safety provided they repent and seek forgiveness. The Journal seems to think that the difficulty of deciding who, and how many shall be exempted from pardon, is so formidable as to render universal pardon an imperative necessity, embracing penitent and impenitent alike.

We admit the difficulty, but not the depreciable claim for it. It is not insuperable. And, besides, the remedy seems worse to us than the disease. Even the Journal admits that one man should be hung if he is caught, and only regrets that it cannot be repeated twenty million times! A majority of loyal people will vote that one more, a certain J. D., should also be hung. There will be little difficulty then in agreeing upon at least two exemptions from pardon. But we trust no one desires that either of those culprits should be executed without trial. And whatever circumstances attending their trial may furnish the basis of a plea for mercy, should be vigilantly heeded. Now, we would have the measure of

trial for his hang over the rebel Cabinet and Congress, the general officers of the rebel army, the Governors of rebel States, and all the renegades from official positions under the United States Government, whatever their present position may be.

Let all such know that, if they remain in this country they must take their chances of such a trial. In fact, such a measure might prove just the "touch-stone" we need for testing the real quality of these offenders. Those who are truly penitent, who deplore with their whole might and soul, their participation in treason will be likely to remain and do "works meet for repentance" and trust the clemency of a magnanimous people. Those who would submit to rightful authority with the spirit of a caged tiger, will escape to some congenial jungle before the cage closes up. In a majority of instances the former class would never be brought to trial.

The Journal takes as though there were no intermediate states for rebels between immediate, unconditional, and unsought pardon, and immediate execution.

We never expect to see or to hear of the execution of many rebel leaders. The worst, most dangerous of them will get out of the country forthwith. Let the possibility of retribution cling as a needed and wholesome restraint to the balance of them. And let amnesty and pardon be extended gradually and individually to them as they vindicate by their conduct their claim to these.

DELIBERATE DEVIATION OF CLERICAL TRAITORS.

Original secession had no other or more persistent advocates than Southern Preachers of the Gospel. They were, as a general thing, as deeply and as earnestly engaged in the original treason of this rebellion as any class of the community. The exceptions to this rule in the cotton States were very few, and whenever they were discovered, the parties were either persecuted into silence or driven ruthlessly from their homes and their property confiscated. Kentucky and Tennessee were also infected with these "clerical traitors" to a very large extent, and they were not confined to any particular sect or denomination. Kentucky has perhaps suffered from these pernicious traitors more than any other State, for she has been, and is now, the receptacle of those who have been expelled from the loyal congregations of Missouri, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. In Kentucky there always seems to be a congregation of "secession sympathizers" ready to receive the disloyal Preachers of the Gospel from the loyal States and to give them a hearty welcome.

These "clerical traitors" always pretend to extra piety. They are opposed to mixing politics and religion. Their mission is to "Preach Christ and him crucified," and to know nothing else. They "thank God that they are not as other men," mixing up the "secular with the religious," and confounding the "things which belong to Caesar with the things belonging to God." This pretense has been dignified into the name of "non-resistance" or "non-partisanship," and it is fully time when this hypocrisy should be exposed. This pretended piety is all falsehood and a sham, and the greater portion of these disloyal preachers in this city and State know it to be such.

We intend to show the people of Kentucky the falsehood and hollowness of this pretended piety, and we shall from time to time lay before them such facts as will silence and shame these "clerical traitors," if, indeed, they are not lost to shame.

Below will be found an article cut from the columns of the Louisville Journal and published in the fall of 1863, which shows what the spirit and animus of these "clerical traitors" really are. If the spirit of this "Christian Advocate" is not akin to that of a devil incarnate we know not where to look for it. This is a fair specimen of the teachings of these secession preachers, as promulgated by themselves when they were free to give utterance to their real opinion:

REBEL TRAITS.—Our readers are aware of the pious exercises of the Nashville Christian Advocate for furnishing religious food in the beginning of the rebellion. We have had one of its persuasive productions in our office for a year or so, and it has been most anxiously inspected. The following review of its merits appeared in the Nashville Methodist Christian Advocate, of February 15, 1862:

"We are arming men with a weapon new in this war and in modern warfare generally, but a most effective weapon, as it will compel the Southern soldier to do his best, and will throw the rebel down at his own sword, to wit: hard to hand fighting. This weapon is the pike, a large number having been and still being manufactured, under an appropriate name, by the Legislature of the State of Alabama. The Alabama pike consists of a keen, two-edged steel blade, like a large bowie-knife, blade, near a foot and a half long, with a handle, very sharp, bent, and secured near the socket. This is intended for cutting the bridles of cavalrymen, or pulling them off their horses, or catching them about the neck when they are running away. This hand is mounted on a strong, light foot long. A gleaming row of these fearful implements of slaughter, bearing down upon them at the point of bayonet, strike the terror of ten thousand deaths to the apprehensive souls of the Yankees."

It is scarcely to be doubted that we would have won more and more decided victories, had we had, and there had not been an ounce of gunpowder, except for artillery purposes, in the Confederacy. Then the Southern soldier must have come to close quarters, and their superior physical prowess and nerve would have made their victories deadly and decisive."

The pike is a voracious and long lived beast, the Alabama pike is a devouring creature and did no grow execution while it was extant. As an evidence of the spirit of a Christian Advocate in the early days of the rebellion, we have selected a few men for a cabinet, to illustrate heretofore the patriotism of the late rebellion.

But the slaveholder's conspiracy has done, in a wholly unexpected manner, its mad, wild act of utter, and frenzied desperation. The true animus of the conspiracy appeared in that act. Its cat-like stealth and ferocity, together with the judicial blindness with which it would seem divine wrath has smitten it from the first, were exhibited in all their revolting ugliness in that deed. Thousands upon thousands of people will gain from the event a fresh insight into the criminality of this rebellion. And as we anticipated in the first comments we were moved to make upon the rebel leaders, have felt constrained to denounce the atrocity spontaneously and without qualification.

The telegraph brings us word that Gen. Lee and Roger A. Pryor, together with others in Richmond and Petersburg condemn and deplore the deed, with great emphasis. It is announced that Gen. Lee is preparing a public address on the subject for his fellow-citizens, and that Mr. Pryor is advertised to speak upon it in Petersburg. We are disposed to credit these gentlemen with correct and humane motives in thus promptly repudiating this frightful crime, notwithstanding it was committed in behalf of the cause which they still cherish in their regretful hearts. And if they give the crime its true name, and labor with their erring countrymen to convince them of its heinousness the fact should, and undoubtedly will be remembered in their favor when the reckoning comes for their own offenses against the nation.

For so long as the fact that they do thereby show that they are not wholly demonized, that there is still some noble life and health left in them, their influence will doubtless be considerable on those whom they appeal, in awakening some just sense of the wickedness as well as the blunder of the act. And who shall say that the result will not hasten the unqualified submission of those who are thus impressed, to rightful authority? It seems to us altogether reasonable to anticipate this. As one sound may, by its superior loudness, drown another, as one disease may supplant another a little less malignant than itself; as grief may be eclipsed by grief that is still more poignant; as the spectacle of bitter sorrow than his own may beget in the mourner patience and resignation, or the spectacle of immediate anger produce wholesome reflection in the mind of the display of violence; as all terrible displays of evil are likely to stun and paralyze evils of an inferior pitch of malignity, so perchance this extraordinary murder will stun the traitor-drunken heart of the South into sobriety and penitence. And we may venture to hope that the tragedy in Ford's Theater, occurring as it did on the anniversary of the equally wanton and hardly less infernal deed in Charleston Harbor four years ago, was the final flourish, the last frantic thrust of treason, as it recoiled, baffled and raging into the abyss of hell, whence it came!

SUMTER.

Burning Words of Joe Holt.

The Charleston correspondent of the Cincinnati Gazette relates many of the interesting scenes and incidents of the 14th, and also gives the

After-Supper Speeches at the Hotel. It was late in the evening, when the official party from the Arago arrived from the fort, and a special supper had to be prepared for them at the hotel. There were included in the company at the table the principal military officers of the post; and after the cloth was removed, and speaking began, the large dining hall filled up with a fine audience of quiet listeners. I give the spirit of the remarks.

JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL HOLT. Judge Holt, in responding to Gen. Anderson, said: "It was my intention for organizations in treason or in crime on a vast scale to commit mistakes in the selection of agents to accomplish their work; and no man in all history has provided for the mistake than Floyd in the selection of Gen. Anderson, on the sole ground of his being a Southern man, to command Fort Sumter. He thought he was in a tool of traitors, and found a loyal, fearless and true man. Those who have lead great treasonable enterprises, or great crimes, had suffered from no multiplied range of error, when they discovered such mistakes in the selection of their agents, and none had suffered more in this respect than Floyd, at hearing of the strange fate of the man he had selected to command Fort Sumter. He had found a loyal, fearless and true man. 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